

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph after the title and before the first paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a National Phase application of International Application No. PCT/US2004/016585, filed May 26, 2004, which claims priority from United States patent application serial number 10/462,996, filed June 16, 2003, entitled METHOD AND SYSTEM TO SUPPORT NETWORK PORT AUTHENTICATION FROM OUT-OF-BAND FIRMWARE. The present application claims priority to both International Application No. PCT/US2004/016585, filed May 26, 2004, and United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/462,996, filed June 16, 2003.